

June 24, 1965

14173

While people of the Mountain West generally welcome the interest in their part of the country, many, like Mr. Krakel, have mixed feelings. Says Mr. Krakel, "I just hope this part of the country doesn't get overrun."

To the person traveling through the Mountain West, it seems hard to believe that this could happen.

WH OR Harris
COMMUNISTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. President, much has been said and much has been written about the U.S. actions in the Dominican Republic.

One of the more penetrating articles was written by Paul Bethel, and was printed in the Washington Daily News of June 23. In the article, Mr. Bethel shows clearly the Communist influence in the Dominican uprising. He points out that the Communists, most of whom were trained and exported from Cuba, made every attempt to spread terror and confusion throughout Santo Domingo. This is an old Communist tactic, and one which almost worked in establishing another Communist foothold in the Western Hemisphere.

President Johnson deserves the gratitude of every American and every freedom-loving man anywhere in the world for his decisiveness in meeting the Communist challenge in the Dominican Republic, which not only saved that strifetorn island from Red tyranny, but also let the world know that the United States would not hesitate to defend the cause of freedom.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the Bethel article printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Daily News, June 23, 1965]

DOMINICAN REVIEW—THE REBELS IN COLD BLOOD SENT 600 CIVILIANS TO DEATH

(NOTE.—How two Castro Communists made a deal with deposed President Juan Bosch 6 weeks before the Dominican Republic's revolution was started has been told in a previous installment. Mr. Bethel also outlined how, following the deal, the Communist manifesto was broadcast urging the people to overthrow the incumbent, interim President Donald Reid Cabral, and reinstate Senor Bosch. Today, he describes how the Communist-Bosch coalition double-crossed and outmaneuvered the army, to take charge of the rebellion and transform it into a revolutionary grab for power with Bosch as their front.)

(By Paul D. Bethel)

On Sunday, April 25, the second day of the Dominican Republic revolt, Gen. Wessin y Wessin sent a personal representative to meet with the rebels of the 16th of August Barracks. Jointly, they were to set up a caretaker junta composed of rebels and loyalists until elections were called.

The general's emissary was met by banners carrying a slogan from Communist manifesto issued the month before: "We are for the return of President Bosch at the head of the constitutional government." This was the dramatic switch from the agreed-upon elections, maneuvered by the Bosch PRD-Communist combine.

The emissary also found that a large num-

ber of the Army rebels had slipped into the center of the city where the political and military decisions were being made by the PRD-Communist combine.

The day before, mobs seized Radio Santo Domingo. Known Communist leaders—among them Castro-Cuban Luis Acosta—harangued the populace to "return President Bosch at the head of the constitutional government."

CONFUSED IMPRESSION

This was early—2:30 p.m. on Saturday. People were paraded across the TV screens dragging rifles, armed to the teeth, to give the impression that everyone was supporting the rebellion. Another purpose was to throw the loyalist armed forces into confusion, by televising people in uniform with the civilians. The broadcasts did the job.

In fact, control of radio and television nearly gave the Communists the country. The confusion in the loyalist ranks was enormous. Skillful radio and television propaganda made it appear that the country already was in rebel hands.

As late as 10 p.m. Sunday the Dominican Navy didn't know where it stood. Commodore Rivero Caminero told a junior commander: "I am with the people but against communism." Broadcasts that the Navy had thrown in with the rebels were apparently interpreted by the commodore to mean that the joint rebel-loyalist military junta had been established. There were no clear instructions from the San Isidro base on the politics of the moment simply because Gen. Wessin y Wessin was trying to sort out the tangle.

Adding to the disorganization on Sunday the National Police set free both criminals and political prisoners. Rebels rushed them to the TV station saying the police had gone over to the side of the "peoples' movement." Powerful propaganda. Tremendous confusion.

TRUCKS WITH ARMS

But it was organized confusion. Four truck loads of arms roared into Independence Park in the rebel-held portion of Santo Domingo. As one Western diplomat stated: "I saw Peiping Communists, Castro Communists and Moscow Communists passing out arms to criminals and to the street gangs."

These, then, were the "armed civilians" referred to in news accounts by overly "objective" reporters. Gen. Wessin y Wessin's official log says the civilians got the automatic weapons, the soldiers only the hand weapons.

Thus the rebels gained 2 precious days, enabling them to secure and to hold the central part of the city.

Saturday night and early Sunday morning Gen. Wessin y Wessin's tanks moved across the Duarte Bridge over the Ozama River to curb the mobs, a few hours before he was to learn he had been doublecrossed. He confidently expected the Army rebels to join him in cleaning out the mobs in the city. Instead, his troops were faced by those same rebels now working together with the organizers and the mobs. This blow to loyalist morale was nearly fatal.

Communist and leftwing parties openly endorsed the revolt and called for the return of Senor Bosch—the MPD (Popular Democratic Movement), the Communist Popular Socialist Party, the 14th of June movement, among others. All are pro-Castro organizations. The PRD provided the all-important front.

STREET GANG

Musclemen for the rebels are the "turbas"—street gangs, something like those who terrorize subway riders in New York City. They also do dirty work for whoever happens to hold power in the Dominican Republic, and will pay them.

During Trujillo's time, police gave street gangs missions to beat up or intimidate Trujillo foes to keep the populace in line.

During the April revolt, the turbas were used by Communist organizers. Their mission—to loot, kill, steal, create chaos, intimidate the populace, exterminate those not in sympathy with rebel aims.

Thus did hate and murder stalk rebel-held streets during the first few days.

Most foreign reporters arrived in Santo Domingo well over a week after the initial outbreak of the revolt. By that time most of the bodies had been removed. Since there were no bodies in abundance, as reported by U.S. Embassy sources, overly hostile reporters scoffed at those reports.

Yet, even the Peace Corps volunteers said that hoes and shovels given to the people for backyard gardening were used to bury the dead, and more were requested. Those same volunteers also reported that leaflets had been passed around by Communist organizers several weeks before the revolt, with instructions on how to make Molotov cocktails out of Coca-Cola bottles and gasoline.

Much other evidence of Communist domination of the rebel movement comes from Havana.

FIDELISTA

For example, on May 11, I found that Rafael Mejia (alias "Pichirilo") was in Santo Domingo with the rebels. Mejia was helmsman for the yacht *Gramma*, which took Fidel Castro and 82 men from Mexico to Cuba, where they landed on December 2, 1956, and took up the guerrilla fight against Gen. Fulgencio Batista.

Mejia is a Dominican by birth. He holds Cuban citizenship, as well, and is a captain in Castro's rebel army, a graduate of guerrilla training and political agitation schools in Cuba.

The extent of Castro-Communist influence in the rebel camp is fully documented in reports by John Bartlow Martin, President Johnson's special envoy. He named names. He described their activities, ranging from introducing large sums of political money into the country to running "a school for Communist indoctrination." All were trained in Cuba. Some had received training in Russia and China, as well.

A five-man factfinding commission of the Organization of American States gave a devastating report on Communist and Castro Communist rebel activities. Later the State Department furnished a list of 77 Communist leaders.

Several Senators, including Alaska's ERNEST GRUENING and Connecticut's THOMAS DODD, are critical of some of our press for not reporting those findings.

About noon, on Sunday, April 25, the rebel radio announced that Juan Bosch had designated Jose Rafael Molina as "provisional constitutional president."

COLDBLOODED

During the next 2 days, the rebel radio coldbloodedly directed civilians to go to areas which the loyal Dominican Air Force leaflets had warned would be bombed. It is not known how many were killed. The U.S. Embassy's estimate was 1,800 casualties, 600 dead.

On Sunday night, it looked as if the rebels had the upper hand.

Rebel Provisional President Molina first issued himself two pistols and then signed several decrees to give the impression the loyalist cause was lost.

But by Tuesday morning the air force's Vampire jets had silenced the rebel radio, the navy was lobbing shells into the presidential palace, and the loyalists held.

By Tuesday night, Provisional President Molina had sought asylum.

The next day, Wednesday, April 29, the U.S. Marines began to arrive, and the PRD-

Communist strike for power had bogged down in a tiny enclave in the center of Santo Domingo, where it still is today.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COLD WAR VETERAN

Mr. YARBOROUGH. Mr. President, the brave veterans of service throughout the world during the cold war period have been openly discriminated against by the very Government they so loyally serve. The dedication with which these men and women serve the cause of freedom is certainly no less than the patriotism and the devotion to duty which characterized the service of the soldiers of World War II and the Korean conflict. Why should not our veterans of today have the same opportunities and advantages for future economic success that the veterans of prior years had? I submit that there is no just excuse for the failure of this Government to offer the courageous veterans of cold war service an opportunity to regain their foothold in the civilian community. Enactment of the cold war GI bill (S. 9) will insure the removal of this discrimination and, at long last, will provide an equal educational opportunity for the cold war veterans.

I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Mrs. Helen Dunford, of Sylvestor, W. Va., be printed at this point in the RECORD. The letter is dated May 3, 1965, and expresses the thoughts of many thousands of Americans who actively support the cold war GI bill.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MAY 3, 1965.

U.S. Senate,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to you to ask for your support and encouragement of immediate and favorable action on Senate bill S. 9, Cold War Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act. This has the potential of being one of the greatest educational bills in history. The benefits possible through this legislature can be seen by reviewing the results of previous GI bills.

Reasons for encouraging your support on this bill are many and were more than sufficiently covered during the hearings on this legislature. Your study and consideration of these hearings will surely result in your positive and active support.

Our future on the local, national, and international levels will be attained prosperously only through the thoughts and works of educated leaders who can think and act because they have been trained to use their mental facilities to the fullest. The above mentioned bill will help provide for financial assistance to train these potential future leaders.

I urge you to give your full support, in the name of education and national security.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. HELEN DUNFORD.

TRIBUTE TO JOE JAMES CUSTER

Mr. FONG. Mr. President, today, at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, funeral services are being held for Joe James Custer, heroic war correspondent, radio commentator, newspaperman, and public-relations consultant. Joe Custer died of

a heart attack, last Sunday, at his home in Honolulu.

Last rites for him are being held on the U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial, which he helped to build. For 7 years he was Executive Secretary of the Pacific War Memorial Commission, which handled the fund-raising to construct the memorial over the sunken hull of the battleship *Arizona*, in Pearl Harbor.

Joe was widely known among newsmen, having worked on various newspapers, and was an outstanding war correspondent in World War II. He lost an eye while covering a naval battle in the Pacific.

I knew Joe Custer for many years, and respected him professionally and personally. He served his profession and his country ably and courageously, in peace and in war. I join his many friends in mourning his passing and in extending heartfelt condolences to his wife and family.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD at this point two articles which were published this week in the Honolulu press.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, June 22, 1965]

ARIZONA MEMORIAL RITES FOR CUSTER

Services over the ashes of Joe James Custer, who was executive secretary of the Pacific War Memorial Commission, will be held on the U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial he helped to build.

Mr. Custer's funeral services, set for 10 a.m. Thursday, are the first ever held at the memorial.

The Right Reverend Harry S. Kennedy, bishop of Honolulu of the Protestant Episcopal Church, will conduct the services.

Ashes will be scattered on Pearl Harbor waters following the ceremony.

Mr. Custer, 55, had been executive secretary of the Pacific War Memorial Commission for 7 years when he died Sunday in Queen's Hospital.

As a correspondent for United Press during World War II, he accompanied the Navy on several major Pacific operations until wounded aboard the *Astoria* in the Battle of Savo Island. For this action he received the Purple Heart.

Mr. Custer, also a veteran radio commentator, newspaper man, public relations correspondent, and author of "Through the Perilous Night," is survived by his wife, Victoria; a son, Brian, and a daughter, Sharon.

The family requests that flowers be omitted. Donations in his memory may be made to the U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial Fund in care of the Bishop Trust Co., Honolulu.

[From the Honolulu Advertiser, June 21, 1965]

JOE CUSTER DIES OF HEART ATTACK

Joe James Custer, veteran newsmen, war correspondent, and radio commentator, died yesterday of an apparent heart attack.

He would have been 56 Wednesday.

He was born in New York City and worked on several San Francisco newspapers. He worked as a newsmen in Honolulu before joining the staff of United Press (now United Press International) and serving as a war correspondent.

Custer saw the sea battle between United States and Japanese naval forces off Guadalcanal; the ship he was on, the U.S.S. *Astoria*, was hit more than 200 times and sank the following day. Custer lost an eye in the battle.

His eyewitness reports of sea action led to a book, "Through the Perilous Night."

Custer was a KGU and KGMB commentator, a public relations man, and former executive secretary of the Pacific War Memorial Commission. He was active in community affairs.

Custer was playing bridge with his wife and friends at his home, 1032 Hunakai Street, when he was stricken. An ambulance was called and he was taken to Queen's Hospital. The family doctor also was called and followed the ambulance to the hospital, where Custer was pronounced dead on arrival at 9:20 p.m.

Survivors are his wife, Victoria, son Brian B., and daughter Sharon M.

TRIBUTE TO ADM. GLYNN R. DONAHO

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. President, during recent hearings before the Subcommittee on Federal Procurement and Regulation of the Joint Economic Committee, we received testimony from Adm. Glynn R. Donaho, commander of the Military Sea Transport Service—MSTS—concerning the level of ocean freight rates paid by military departments for shipping defense cargoes. He expressed serious concern about the fact that American-flag lines, most of them heavily subsidized, agree among themselves on rates charged the Government, and decline to furnish data revealing their costs and profits.

We also received testimony describing the efforts of these combined lines to drive out a small, unsubsidized American carrier which has entered the field, to compete. The facts are intriguing, and they demonstrate very clearly that a little competition is more useful than any amount of shrewd negotiation in reaching reasonable rates. In the very act of fighting this small competitor, the combination—or cartel—has reduced by one-third its rates on the major defense commodities. It is reliably estimated that in a little over 2 months, the Department of Defense has saved between \$2 and \$3 million, over the preexisting schedules. The annual projection is impressive, and should, at present rates, procure a total saving of at least \$10 million, on a bill for ocean transportation, that last year ran \$36 million, to the ports visited by members of this particular conference. The saving on inland through bills on household goods, for which the rate has also been severely cut, is over \$1 million, to this date, and may easily total another \$10 million per annum.

I congratulate Admiral Donaho for his alert supervision of his Department, which seems now to be attentive to the whole problem of transportation costs. I should note that this is the second admiral whom the committee has had occasion to congratulate for a vigorous revival in Government maritime operations, the other being Adm. John Harlee, Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission. Perhaps this country needs more cost-conscious admirals.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD a newspaper article on this subject, which was published on June 17 in the Baltimore Evening Sun.